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KOREAN REDS IN FULL FLIGHT

Escape Encirclement In Wretched Weather

COMMENT

The Conservative Opposition in the House of Commons appears to be out for blood. Unless its rank and file, and Mr Churchill, can be persuaded to restrain the sanguinary resolve to scalp the Government — and it looks at present as if nothing less than war itself could make a change of outlook — Mr Attlee and his colleagues may be hard put to it to prevent a general election in the present year.

On vital issues thus far, the Labourites have managed to skimp through, but the defeat on Thursday on a minor contest, shows the danger. The political situation is so tense, there are so many points at which Labour is vulnerable to attack, there is so much unease on Government benches, the majority is so painfully slim, that it is difficult to see how the Government, apart from the accidental incidence of absenteeism on critical occasions, can successfully resist a mounting and continuous Parliamentary pressure.

Beyond doubt, in the country Labour enthusiasm has waned, benefits received are swallowed up in the prospect of harsher times to come, and the railway upheaval — and virtual surrender — does not indicate any disposition by Labour's normal supporters to knuckle down to the stresses of the international tension. Far less can any sympathy be expected from marginal voters.

Tory organisers are well aware of this. They see in public opinion polls what they take to be clear signs of a change in their favour of the political atmosphere, and naturally Mr Churchill would regard it as folly to let the opportunity for any reason to go by default.

The one possibility at this critical stage in world affairs, to postpone a general election, would seem to be a decision, formally announced by Mr Churchill, to encourage national unity by forgoing fatal votes that would bring down the Government. The mood to produce that, however, is not yet to be detected.

Commonwealth Brigade In Stiff Fighting

Tokyo, Feb. 25.

Five to six thousand Communists were tonight reported to be in full flight before the United Nations onslaught through Korea's central mountain range southeast of the key pass town of Hoengsong.

DULLES OPTIMISTIC ON MISSION

Washington, Feb. 25.

Mr John Foster Dulles returned today from his tour of the Pacific, and announced that "we are now in a shape to proceed" with the drafting of a detailed Japanese peace treaty.

Mr Dulles told reporters that in discussions with officials in Japan, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, the question of the Japanese peace treaty was supplemented by talks concerning regional security.

He declined to say how soon the Japanese peace treaty could be signed. But he indicated he was optimistic about the results of the trip. He discharged the questions of the peace treaty and regional security as a "dual problem".

"We returned with confidence that the way has been paved for the enforcement of peace, order and justice by positive and co-operative action in the Pacific island area," Mr Dulles said.

In a prepared statement handed to reporters before he answered their questions, Mr Dulles said, "Our mission returns to Washington after an absence of nearly five weeks. Our effort was not only directed to seek a settlement of the old war with Japan but to find ways to provide an insurance against aggression which threatens ominously in the Pacific." —United Press.

MILAN ARMS SEIZURE

Milan, Feb. 25.

The police reported here today that they had found a lorry-load of arms and ammunition at the bottom of a muddy canal outside the town of Lodi, near Milan.

It includes a heavy machine-gun, a sub-machine gun, about 40 rifles, 59 hand-grenades, about 3,000 rounds of ammunition and a knuckle-duster. A second smaller quantity of arms were found last night at the bottom of the river Ticinello, near Milan.

The police said that these finds indicated that "people who have been gathering and storing arms are now trying to get rid of them." —Reuter.

They were retreating from outpost positions to the main Communist defence line blocking General Matthew B. Ridgway's five-day old offensive, which has already ironed out most of the dents in the United Nations line across the waist of the peninsula.

Except below Hoengsong, increasingly stiff North Korean resistance today almost halted the six-nation advance on slushy roads, paddies and slippery hillsides.

The Commonwealth Brigade, with the Canadians on the left flank of the 60-mile front, could make no progress against determined mortar and small-arms fire from hill trenches.

Army sources at the 10th Corps Headquarters tonight indicated that the main force of North Koreans on the central front had escaped encirclement by the advancing Allies.

General Ridgway had sent two forces into a pincer movement, one west and one east of Hoengsong. Both arms were now north of the lateral road running through Hoengsong, but had made almost no ground contact with the Communists in four days.

The sources took this to mean that the Northerners had retreated ahead of the advance to the main defence line, where stiff fighting was now to be expected.

Up to 15,000 Communists were said to be established in "defence in depth" positions on the western extremity of the front. But the Seoul area was comparatively quiet today.

PYONGYANG RAID

Superforts based on Okinawa today hammered Communist communications near the North Korean capital city of Pyongyang.

One hundred and twenty tons of bombs were dropped on marshalling yards, bridges and other military targets. Another 70 tons went on a bypassed rail bridge at Pyongyang.

Lieutenant General George E. Stratemeyer, the Commander of the American Far East Air Forces, said today that warplanes had caused the Communists nearly 100,000 casualties since the start of the war.

Bad weather and poor visibility hampered air operations throughout the day.

John Colless, Reuter's correspondent at the 9th Corps Headquarters, reported tonight that fighting, taking place in the British Commonwealth sector, where two battalions of Chinese Communists, dug in on the deep mountain ridges, have held up Canadian and Australian troops, diminished today with no substantial change in positions.

NO CHANGE

The Communists today threw two battalions against the advancing South Koreans a few miles west of Hoengsong. Fighting began at 1.00 p.m.

Ironing Out The Money

London, Feb. 25.

The Bank of England has begun ironing Britain's paper money to make it go further.

Until recently all notes turned in by the big banks were replaced by new ones, but now they are cleaned, pressed and re-issued—to save the government money. —United Press.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE ARRESTS

London, Feb. 25.

Police today arrested nine women taking part in a demonstration in Trafalgar Square against rearmament. They were taken to Bow Street Central Police Station to be charged.

The women were carrying banners and marching into the Square to join a demonstration against the British call-up of reserves.

The demonstration was organised by an organisation calling itself "The Ex-Service Movement for Peace."

Political processions have been banned in London since clashes occurred between Communist demonstrators and right-wing groups.

Around the necks of the marching women hung placards saying: "Women say no to the call-up" and "No arms for the Nazis."

About 700 attended the Trafalgar Square meeting, with 100 uniformed police in attendance. Communist literature was passed out. It was directed mainly against German rearmament. More police watched the approaches to the Square to enforce the procession's ban and mounted police stood by. —Reuter.

Gen de Gaulle Demands Guarantees

Paris, Feb. 25.

General Charles de Gaulle today accused the French Government of having given a "friendly but foreign" power the use of French bases in Morocco without guarantees that the Atlantic Pact strategy was aimed at preventing Western Europe from being invaded.

He said that America's rearmament effort was "really colossal" but nothing had yet been decided about the use that the United States would make of her forces.

"Any French Government worthy of the name," said General de Gaulle "could not agree or entrust its forces to a common strategy aimed only at holding out posts like Spain and England with the intention of liberating the rest of Europe later." —Reuter.

GREATER POLITICAL FREEDOM URGED FOR WEST GERMANY

Washington, Feb. 25.

Mr Henry Byroade, director of the State Department Bureau of German Affairs, said today the Western Germany must have "greater political freedom" if it is to play a planned role in the defence of Europe.

He added that widening of German political responsibility "is now under study and will soon be discussed in detail with the Germans."

Mr Byroade spoke on the Columbia Broadcasting System programme with Mr George Perkins, Assistant Secretary of State for European affairs, and other American officials. Mr Perkins, who recently returned from a trip to Europe, said he was convinced of Western European will to increase their collective strength and defend themselves against the "Soviet imperialistic menace."

Speaking of European reaction to this menace, Mr Perkins said: "One has heard much about their unwillingness to fight and that they want to take refuge in futile neutralism. Let us be frank about it. That has been the feeling in some quarters and it has come from the feeling that they were weak and that nothing could be done about it. Fortunately, this feeling has never been widespread and I am glad to be able to say a result of my trip that... the people of Europe generally believe they can become strong enough to protect themselves and that if they do they believe that war can be prevented."

GERMAN ROLE

In his argument for more political freedom for Western Germany, Mr Byroade said, "The Germans feel that a role in defence should entitle them to greater political freedom. This is, in our view, logical—we have always considered that a significant change in the character of the occupation should accompany any decision on the part of Germany to share in the responsibilities and obligations of the defence of the West."

Mr E. Martin, director of the State Department's Office of European Regional Affairs, said on the same broadcast that Europe had no choice but to rearm if it wanted to keep out of the clutches of Moscow. —United Press.

He said: "An area which is as important a military asset as Western Europe cannot remain neutral even should it wish to do so. Either it is on our side and we are working together in a common defence effort or its assets will, sooner or later, go under Kremlin control and work for the Soviets."—United Press.

Gottwald Condemns Clementis

Prague, Feb. 25.

President Klement Gottwald, in a speech released today, denounced his former friend and Foreign Minister, Vladimir Clementis, as a "spy and a traitor."

The Communist President also attacked Mado Svermova, Politburo and Central Committee member in charge of the Communist Party's organising section, and Otto Sling, Central Committee member and most influential Communist in Moravia, "and company."

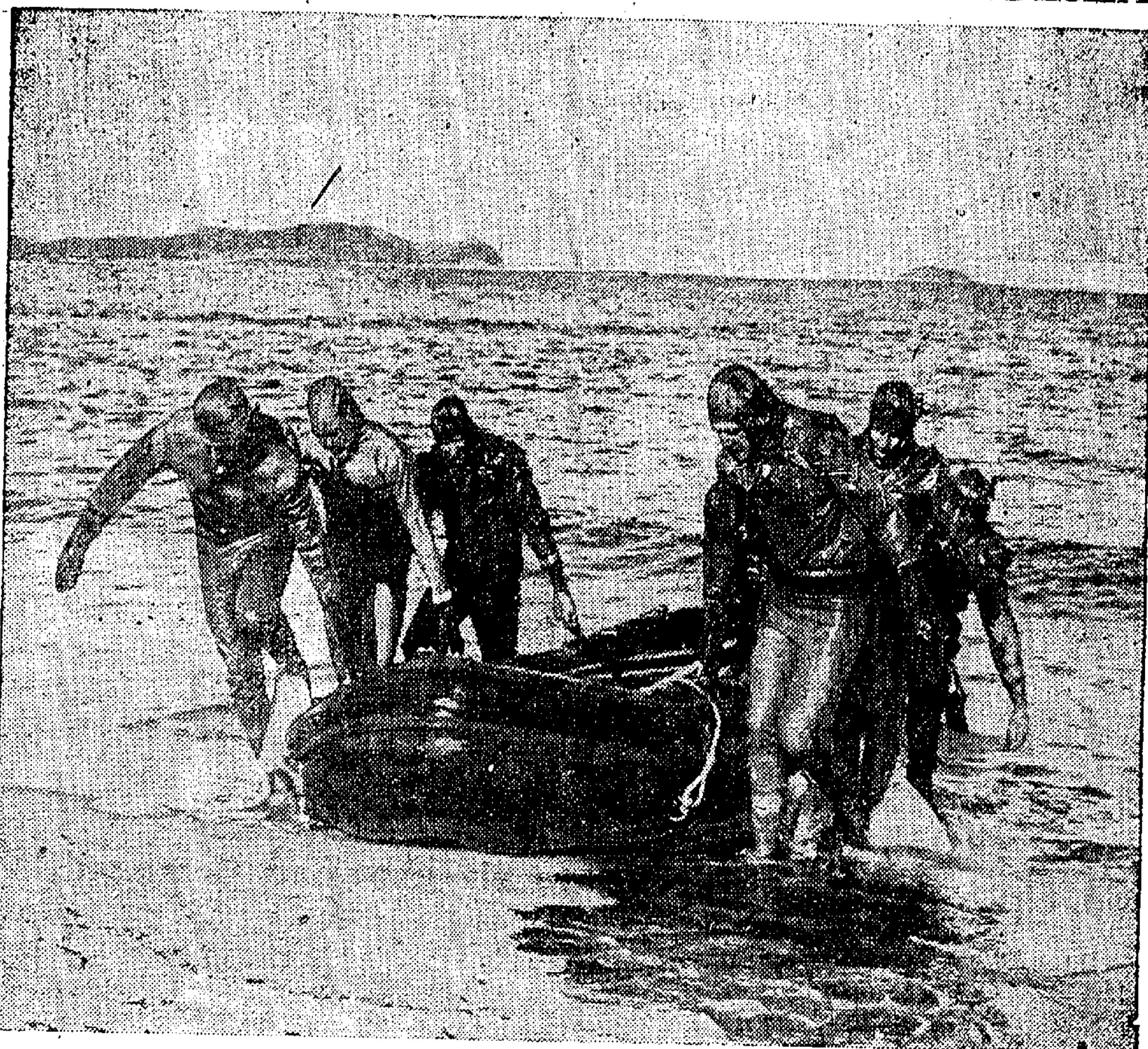
He promised: "All these scoundrels will be justly punished. Czechoslovakia will not become another Yugoslavia."

His statement to a meeting of the Central Committee during the week aroused speculation that Clementis might be under arrest in Czechoslovakia. Clementis recently was reported to have fled to Yugoslavia, Austria or Western Germany. —United Press.



Conversely, my dear, it makes me feel cheerful—I can't see the prices.

FROG MEN DO A JOB IN KOREA



These American Navy underwater demolition men, called frog men, are bringing their rubber boat ashore at a South Korean port after a day's work in the clearing of the harbour.

Door To Peaceful Close Of Korea Conflict Still Open To China

Brighton, Feb. 25.

The door to a peaceful settlement in Korea was still open if China was willing to enter, said Mr Herbert Morrison here today.

The Lord President of the Council stated that "our immediate objective has been to bring about a peaceful settlement in Korea."

The terms which the United Nations offered to China—and which she, unfortunately and ill-advisedly, did not wholly accept—owed a lot to British initiative, he said.

"We also succeeded in securing important amendments to the United Nations resolution condemning the Chinese intervention in Korea. These have left open a door to a peaceful settlement, if China is willing to enter," Mr Morrison continued.

"We are glad that despite the indignation aroused on both sides of the Atlantic by the action of the Chinese in Korea, counsels of moderation and restraint have so far prevailed and we are proud of the part we have played."

But more important than any detailed policy, said Mr Morrison, was the fact that Great Britain had developed a system of democratic socialism which was a form of society excelled nowhere, and equalled only in the democratic socialist countries of Scandinavia.

EQUAL PARTNERSHIP

"We have helped to raise India, Pakistan and Ceylon to full nationhood in the free and equal partnership of the Commonwealth. Nowhere have we more friends of a higher prestige than in the countries which we have taught and helped to govern themselves. They really know what Britain stands for, and they admire it."

"We are helping our dependent territories—particularly in Africa—along the same path," Mr Morrison said.

Earlier, Mr Morrison stated that in spite of what "mischievous people" said, Britain had a foreign policy of her own "and it is largely due to that policy that a very dangerous situation indeed has not arisen in the past few months."—Reuter.

Czech Minister's New Post

Tel-Aviv, Feb. 25.

The Czechoslovak Minister to Israel, Mr Edward Goldstuckner, has been appointed Minister to Sweden, it was learned from usually reliable sources here today.

Mr Goldstuckner, who was formerly Charge d'Affaires in London, is expected to assume his new duties on March 1. —Reuter.

Foreign Office Declines Comment

London, Feb. 25.

The latest Soviet Note to Britain offers dimmed hopes for a productive Big Four meeting, informed quarters said today. The Foreign Office was still in the process of studying the 4,000-word reply to the stiff British Note of last week and would authorise no comment.

However, immediate reaction in quarters which had read the text was that it did not help Western hopes that the Big Four meeting would be anything but a sounding-board for Russian propaganda. The sources were immediately struck with the speed and angry tone of the reply, which answered the British blast at the Pravda interview with Marshal Josef Stalin.

The British Note had been worded in some of the sharpest language seen in diplomatic circles since the war and to

many Britons represented a roar of defiance from the lion to the bear. The Russian reply seems to put most of the blame for the deteriorated international situation onto the West, and undoubtedly was partially intended for propaganda consumption both at home and abroad.

It was also pointed out that it was issued to coincide with the Communist-backed Berlin Peace Council meeting and said it would doubtless be discussed there before the Council ended. —United Press.

KING'S MAJESTIC

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ANGRY SOVIET NOTE TO BRITAIN

But Still Anxious "To Establish Better Understanding"

U.K. Accused Of Being Under American Subjugation

London, Feb. 25.

The Korean people were waging a "liberation struggle" for national unity and the Chinese People's Republic were defending "legitimate national interests," Russia has told Britain in a note handed to the British Ambassador in Moscow.

This note was in reply to a British one answering Russian charges that Britain was guilty of breaches of the Potsdam agreement and of the Anglo-Soviet Pact of 1942.

Referring to the British Government's "gross attacks against the Korean people and the Chinese People's Republic," made in the British note of February 17, the latest Soviet note said:

"Everyone can see how the Korean people is waging a liberation struggle for its national unity and is not interfering in the affairs of any other states.

"Everyone sees also that the Chinese People's Republic is defending its legitimate national interests, upholding its right in respect to the island of Taiwan and to the defence of its frontiers from the Anglo-American troops, which broke into Korea and are threatening the frontiers of China."

"The aggressors are the United States and Great Britain, which despatched their troops several thousand kilometres from their frontiers on to the territory of Korea, where these troops already for seven months have been destroying Korean towns and villages, plundering the Koreans, violating Korean women, killing Korean children and old people."

"SUBJUGATION"

The note accused Britain of having fallen "under the subjugation" of America. She was more and more losing her independence and being turned "into a military base of the American armed forces."

It was a slander to say that Russia had not effected the demobilisation of her troops after World War II, the note asserted. The Soviet Government had, in fact, effected "a fundamental and extensive demobilisation of its troops." It had demobilised 33 age classes, the note added.

The note said that Russia considered "as not serious" and "ridiculous" the references in the British note to the liberation movement in Malaya, Indo-China and other countries, "with the accusation against the Soviet Government that, in pressing sympathy for the liberation struggle of oppressed peoples, it is thereby allegedly violating the Anglo-Soviet treaty."

UNILATERAL ACTION

The Russian note cited the following as examples of the "unilateral actions" of the British Government in regard to Germany:

The "separate unification" of British and American occupation zones of Germany in 1946, joined subsequently by the French zone, as a result of which "Germany was split into two parts."

The introduction of a special currency in Western Germany, "which irrevocably destroyed Germany's economic unity and led to the liquidation of the Control Council composed of representatives of the four Powers."

The formation of the Bonn Government for Western Germany, "which put obstacles in the way of restoring the unity of the German German state."

The separate refusal to prepare a peace treaty with many, and the introduction of the Occupation Statute, "imposed upon the western zones of Germany with the purpose of prolonging the occupation for an indefinite period."

"All these measures were carried out in a separatist manner without co-ordination with the U.S.S.R. and without the participation of the latter."

"Thus it was not the U.S.S.R. but Britain which rejected the policy of co-operation in regard to the German problem, and by doing so violated article three of the Anglo-Soviet treaty."

The Soviet note further alleged that, contrary to the same article of the Anglo-Soviet treaty, the British Government started to carry out, not the democratisation of Germany, "but the restoration of Fascist leaders, the gradual Fascistisation of Western Germany."

WAR INDUSTRY

"Simultaneously, the British Government," the note said, "instead of the demilitarisation of Germany, began to restore Germany's war industry, turning the Ruhr into a base of war industry; it began to restore the German regular army headed by Fascist generals; it began to turn Western Germany into a bridgehead for a new aggressive war."

The note claimed that, in keeping with article seven of the Anglo-Soviet treaty, the Soviet Government "did not and is not taking part in any anti-British Coalitions"; all the treaties of the Soviet Union with other countries in Europe, it said, "are aimed at the consolidation of peace in Europe and have the purpose of preventing the rebirth of German militarism and of German aggression."

On the contrary, the note declared, the British Government "is openly trampling upon the obligations which Great Britain assumed under the Anglo-Soviet treaty."

WESTERN UNION

The British Government, together with the French Government, were the initiators of the creation of the Western Union, "which from the very beginning did not conceal its hostility towards the U.S.S.R."

"Subsequently, Great Britain and the United States created the North Atlantic grouping of powers, whereby the Soviet Union alone of the Great Powers affiliated to the anti-Hitlerite coalition was excluded from the participants of the North Atlantic treaty," the note continued.

This state of affairs, the references to the defensive nature of the Western Union and the North Atlantic groupings are "obviously untenable."

"Moreover, facts testify that the Western Union, as well as the North Atlantic grouping, are directly aimed against the U.S.S.R. and the countries of people's democracy."

"GROSS SLANDER"

Referring to what it called "the gross slander" towards the Soviet Union of February 17, the Soviet note said that it was time the British Government understood that the peoples of the three East European countries have "the same right as the people of any other country to settle their own internal affairs, proceeding from their own national interests and not from

Women Teachers And Sex

London, Feb. 25.

Women teachers urged that sex should be studied at school just like arithmetic.

A resolution submitted to the National Union of Women Teachers for the annual March conference said sex ought to be regarded as an ordinary subject and no special permission should be required to instruct children in it. —United Press.

whether the democratic regime established in these countries is to the liking or disliking of the Government of this or that foreign state."

It alleged that the British Government "is encouraging in these states the hostile activity of Fascist groupings, the aim of which is to organise a conspiracy for overthrowing the people's democratic regime."

The Soviet note added, "The Soviet Government considers it a curious fact the attempt of the British Government to pose as protector of the national interests of Yugoslavia. The Soviet people denounce and will denounce the present Yugoslav rulers, because they have established a Fascist regime in their country similar to that of Franco Spain and have deprived the peoples of Yugoslavia of all elementary democratic rights."

LIBERATION

The Russian note described as "unserious and ridiculous" the "mention in the British note about some sort of 'Communist imperialism,'" and declared, "Firstly, the Anglo-Soviet treaty extends only to European countries and in no degree concerns the non-European countries like Malaya or Vietnam."

Secondly, not a single article of the Anglo-Soviet treaty, as is known prohibits anyone from expressing sympathy with the liberation movement in any country whatsoever.

"Thirdly, as long as imperialist oppression exists in the world, there will exist also the liberation movement of oppressed peoples, irrespective of the will and sympathies of some rulers or others. To accuse the Soviet Government of the existence in different countries of liberation movements caused by the oppression of imperialism is just as absurd as it would be to accuse it of the occurrence in the world of earthquakes or tidal waves."

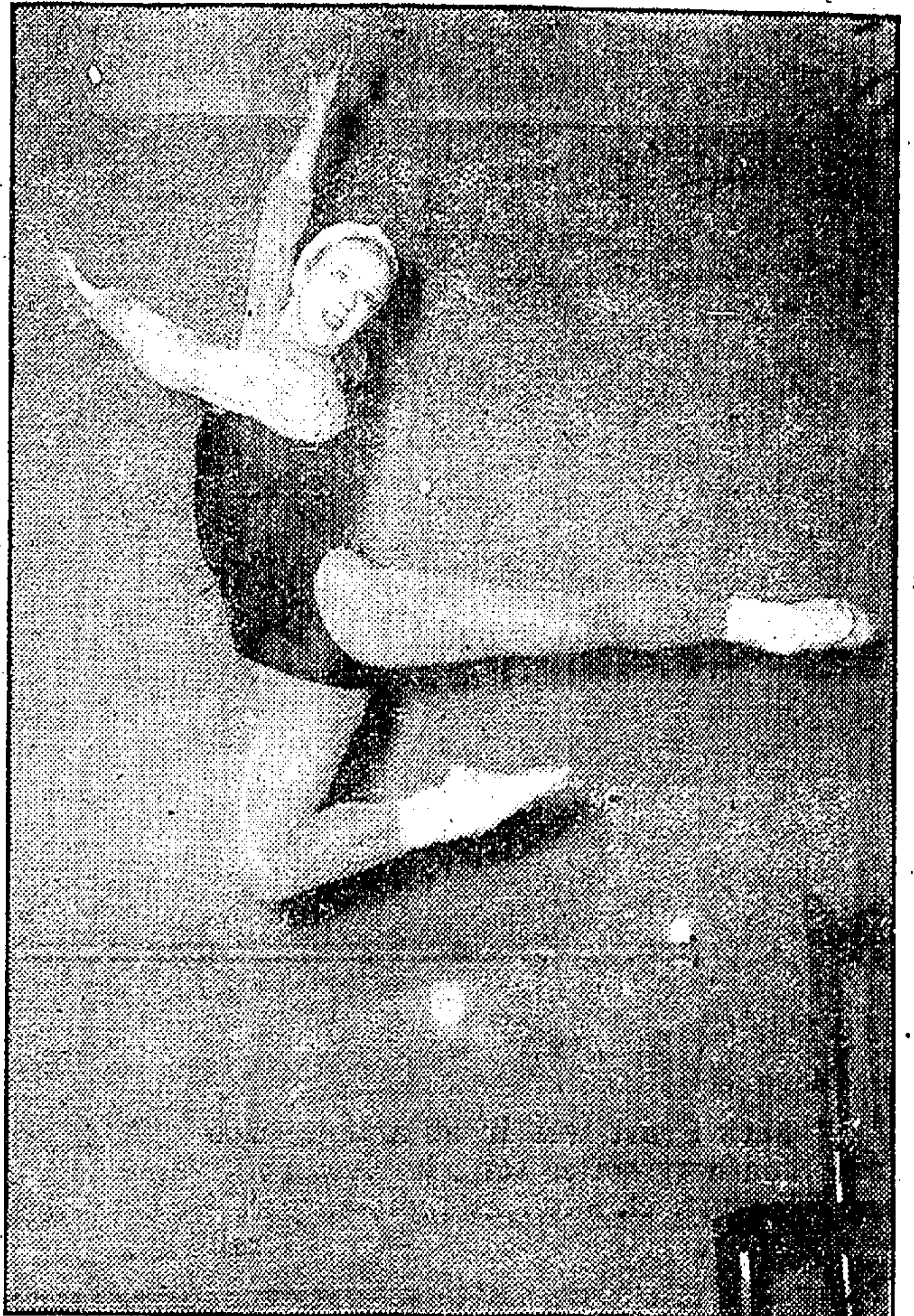
A SLANDER

The Soviet Government declared, "Great Britain has fallen under the subjugation of the United States of America: she is more and more losing her independence and being turned into a military base of the American armed forces, because without this she could not obtain so-called Marshall Plan aid."

"The same has to be said of France, Belgium, Turkey and other so-called 'Marshallised' countries."

The Soviet note disclaimed any responsibility "for the unsatisfactory situation that has arisen in the United Nations."

It also repudiated the responsibility of the Soviet Union and the Cominform for "strikes and social disorders" which, it said, "occurred not only before our



Elsa Marianne von Roen, who is a Countess in her own right, rehearsing her dance in London. She is the star of the Swedish Ballet Company appearing at the Prince's Theatre. The Countess is said to have shocked Stockholm audiences with the abandon with which she danced her role in "Miss Julie."—Central Press.

days and before the establishment of the bureau of the Communist and workers' parties, but also long before our generation."

DEMobilISATION

In regard to the "well-known allegations of Premier Attlee that the Soviet Union did not effect the demobilisation of its troops after the war" and the subsequent assertion in the British note that the Soviet Government demobilised only a certain number of Servicemen from among the maximum call-up during the war, the Russian note declared, "This assertion of the British note is a slander against the Soviet Union. In reality, the Soviet Government effected a fundamental and extensive demobilisation of its troops, having demobilised 33 age classes."

"No one needed an extensive demobilisation of the Soviet troops as much as the Soviet Union, since without the returning of millions of demobilised men to the field and factories, the Soviet Union would not have been able to rehabilitate the areas, towns, railways, industry and agriculture destroyed by the German occupationists."

Describing likewise as slander against the Soviet Union the British note's assertion that the Russian armed forces numerically exceeded the armed forces of the Western countries taken together, the Soviet note stated that at present the numerical strength of the armed forces of the Soviet Union, counting land forces, air forces and the navy, "is equal to the numerical strength of the armed forces of the U.S.S.R. before the outbreak of the second world war in 1939."

DEFENCE CHARGE

It added that three members alone of the North Atlantic Pact — the United States of America, Britain and France — had at present in their armed forces, "more than 5,000,000 men, with the numerical strength of these three Powers continuing to grow rapidly, while the industry of these countries has already been mobilised for a further increase in the production of armaments. "This numerical strength of the armed forces of France,

Britain and the United States is several times greater than that of their armed forces prior to the second world war in 1939, and is more than twice as great as the numerical strength of the armed forces of the U.S.S.R. at present". (Contd. on Page 4 Col. 5)

Queen's

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THE YEAR'S MOST-TO-BE-HONORED PICTURE!

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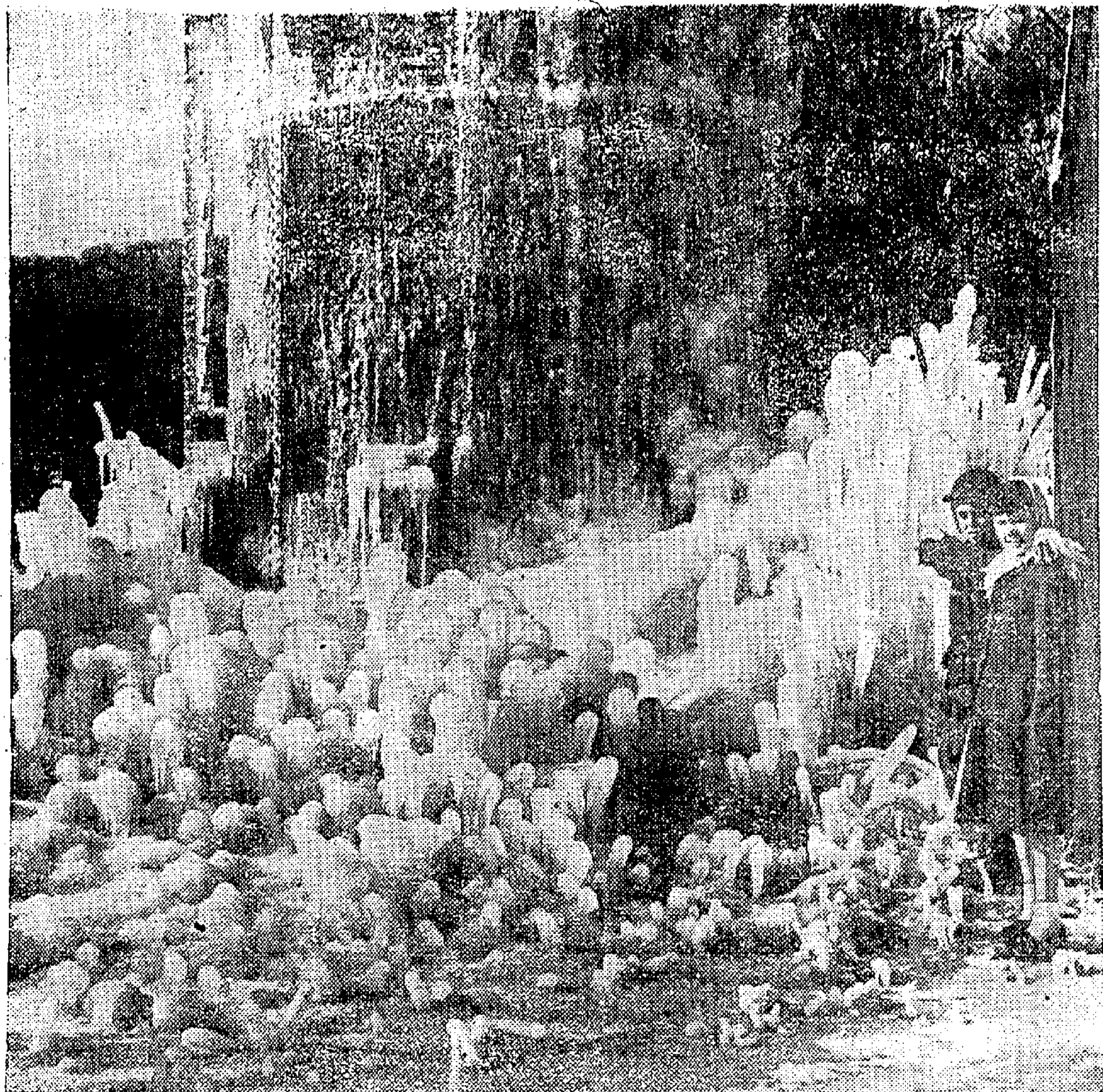
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PRESENTS
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花姑娘

A CHINESE PICTURE
IN MANDARIN DIALOGUE

ARTISTIC PATTERNS IN ICE



Jack Frost was in an artistic mood when he used the water overflowing from a railway water tank in New York the other day to fashion this fantasy in ice. The two children at right suspect that fairies have been working on the railway.

Sequel To Haifa Demonstration

Haifa, Feb. 25. Tewfik Toubi, Arab Communist member of the Israeli Parliament, was charged here today with organising and taking part in an illegal demonstration against General Sir Brian Robertson, Britain's Middle East Commander-in-Chief, during the latter's visit recently.

Toubi was further charged with resisting the police. The police used force to disperse a demonstration by Arab and Jewish youths which developed after an authorised open-air protest meeting of the Communist-sponsored Peace League here last week against the General's visit.

The windows of a police car were broken and a policeman was injured.—Reuter.

Acheson In Bermuda

Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb. 25. The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, arrived here with his wife by air from New York last night for a rest. They will spend a week or 10 days at one of Bermuda's exclusive "cottage colonies".—Reuter.



ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES CERTIFICATES

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Pakistan Paper Takes Dr. Malan To Task

Karachi, Feb. 25

Dawn, the authoritative and influential Karachi newspaper, today criticised the recent statement by Dr Daniel Malan, the South African Prime Minister, that Britain's policy of converting colonies into independent members of the Commonwealth would mean its gradual liquidation.

"From our point of view no usable adjective could do justice to the sort of Commonwealth for which Dr Malan stands," Dawn declared in an editorial article.

The paper, which devoted a full column today to reporting Dr Malan's speech, said that the South African Prime Minister's ideal world would be one in which the white man reigned supreme and other people lived in sub-human bondage from generation to generation and to extinction.

The article said that Dr Malan's policy condemned black humanity, denied it the barest human rights of education, self-expression, association and organisation and employed it in agriculture and industry under a dangerous and degrading master-slave relationship.

The paper added that Dr Malan saw in the global preponderance of coloured peoples a danger to Christian civilisation and white leadership.

It accused him of castigating Britain and the United Nations for betraying the principle of white superiority while showing little appreciation of the unflinching support he had received in various guises from both quarters.

"In the Commonwealth of his own conception, he would not deign to rub shoulders with a coloured man," the paper said, adding: "We have repeatedly pointed out that nothing is more fatal to such an association as the Commonwealth than racialism, power politics, aggression and exploitation among its members."

"If there are in this 'family' some members who are fatuously pampered and obsequiously ministered to, and others who are despoiled and disinherited, it

lacks the fundamental character of a happy and contented family."—Reuter.

Red Candidate For Presidency

Vienna, Feb. 25.

The Austrian Communist Party together with the "left wing Socialists" have decided to nominate Gottlieb Fiala, the Vice-President of the Austrian Trade Union Federation, as the candidate for the Presidential elections next May.

The Socialist Party has already nominated the Mayor of Vienna, former Imperial General Theodor Koerner, as its own candidate. The People's Party is expected to nominate Dr Heinrich Gleissner, the Provincial Governor of Upper Austria.—Reuter.

American Wheat For Yugoslavs

Salonika, Feb. 25.

The American Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Mr George Allan, will attend a ceremony at Djerdjelia, on the Greek border, on Tuesday when 7,000 tons of American wheat are due to arrive by rail from Salonika.

The Greek-Yugoslav train service, which was suspended by Greece during the civil war, was reopened yesterday. —Reuter.

MAJOR HEALTH CAMPAIGN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Washington, Feb. 25.

One of the greatest life-saving battles ever waged by modern medical science, an emergency \$16,000,000 health programme, is being launched in South-East Asia with American dollar aid, the Marshall Plan News, an Economic Co-operation Administration publication, reported today.

"Into an area threatened by Communist infiltration and overcome by poverty and disease, the Economic Co-operation Administration is sending United States medical technicians, first aid supplies in mobile health units, hospital equipment, penicillin and other drugs in an effort to help the individual governments to strengthen their health organisations," said the report.

"The United States Public Health Service is working with the ECA in the recruitment of United States personnel. A team of medical technicians headed by a senior medical officer has been sent to each country to collaborate with the local Ministry of Health, and each country has a national planning and co-ordinating committee, which includes representatives from United Nations agencies concerned with public health."

"The ECA programme is a shot in the arm measure to combat the spread of illness which is crippling labour productivity among the population. Plans are also under way for a long-term programme that would provide for teacher training institutions and village health teams."

"South-East Asia, an important source of many strategic materials, must have adequate health facilities before it can hope to achieve any progress in world trade," continued the report.

"The whole economy of the area is seriously hampered by tropical diseases which curtail agricultural and industrial production and prevent a rise in the standard of living."

"United States shipments of medical supplies and medicine have already been rushed to Burma and Indo-China, and other shipments are on their way to Indonesia and Thailand."

"Thus far, the ECA has financed \$405,000 worth of drugs and medical supplies for the entire area, and contemplates the financing of 125 station wagons and 100 jeeps as part of the health programme."

"The station wagons, equipped as mobile health units and operated largely by local trained personnel, will bring aid to isolated villages where the lack of doctors and medicine has resulted in epidemics and unusually high death rates."

"In Indo-China, for example, mortality rates among infants under the age of one year run as high as 50 per cent."

"The ECA's current health programme is being administered under the direction of Dr John Grant, of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr Grant, who recently returned to the United States from a four months' survey of health and sanitation in this area, observed that while some public health efforts have been undertaken in the last 50 years which have brought smallpox and cholera under what is considered control, the prevalence of other diseases, such as malaria, yaws, trachoma and typhus, remains undiminished." —Reuter.

VIETNAM ASKS AID

Saigon, Feb. 25.

Pham Van Hai, leader of the Vietnam delegation to the Colombo Conference on Commonwealth aid to South-East Asia, suggested today that a Commonwealth economic mission should visit Vietnam.

The mission, he said, could see for itself what could be done economically to rehabilitate Vietnam, and so help the rest of Asia.

Vietnam particularly wanted

to restore its river shipping to the pre-war tonnage of 400,000 tons, so that she could again export over one million tons of rice a year to Asia's rice-hungry people, he said.

If the river fleet, now reduced to 80,000 tons, were restored, the cost of exporting Vietnam's big rice crop could be reduced by 75 per cent, he said.

Vietnam, in a 60-page report to the Colombo Conference, asked for \$199 million in six years to rehabilitate her war-torn country. Priority was given in the report to the rehabilitation of the pre-war rice-exporting business.

Pham Van Hai, who has just returned from Colombo, said that the Vietnam delegation received a favourable reception in Ceylon. Vietnam's proposals were now being investigated but their implementation largely depended on whether the World Bank or Commonwealth financial resources would be able to find the money to build the new fleet of junks or to buy steel barges abroad.—Reuter.

Angry Soviet Note

(Continued from Page 3)

While recognising the feelings of friendship and gratitude existing between the British and Soviet peoples towards one another during and after the war, the Soviet note accused British Labour Party leaders of passing, at their annual conference of 1944, a resolution "fobbing members of the Party to take part in the work of British public organisations aiming at strengthening Anglo-Soviet friendship".

THE "INFERENCE"

It declared, "From this conclusion may be drawn that, as long as the Government of Great Britain was in need of the Soviet Union, without whom it could not win victory over Hitlerite Germany, it somehow contained its anti-Soviet sentiments, its hostile attitude towards the Soviet State."

"But as soon as the rout of Hitlerite Germany became evident, the Labourite leaders began to manifest anxiety and to make haste in adopting measures to weaken the friendly relations of the British people with the peoples of the U.S.S.R."

"Nor is it fortuitous that this disgraceful resolution was repeatedly confirmed at subsequent Labour Party conferences, already in the postwar period."

The Soviet note concluded: "After all the above facts, the Soviet Government cannot regard with full confidence the statement of the British Government. Nevertheless, the Soviet Government is prepared to enter into negotiations, striving to use all opportunities for improving relations with Great Britain. The Government of the U.S.S.R. will highly appreciate any step of the Government of Great Britain really directed at improving relations between our countries."—Reuter.

MOROCCO TENSION EASIER

France Wins First Round In Dispute Over Istiqlalists

Sultan's Dissolution Of Imperial Cabinet

Paris, Feb. 25

France appeared today to have won the first round in the hot dispute over Morocco at a time when the United States is hurrying work on strategic air bases there.

The indication came in an announcement from Rabat that Sultan Idi Mohammed ben Youssef had dissolved his Imperial Cabinet (his personal administrative staff) which contains Istiqlal Party sympathisers.

The Istiqlal Party is violently opposed to a French protectorate and wants independence for the strategic country bordering the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

Some observers had predicted that the Sultan would be forced to abdicate if he continued his refusal to give in to French demands for lessening the Istiqlal's influence and instituting democratic reforms.

The Sultan's move in dissolving his Cabinet appeared to be a blow to the Party, and French officials expressed cautious satisfaction.

It was predicted that the action would put new life into the negotiations between the Sultan and the French Resident-General, General Alphonse Juin, which had appeared hopelessly deadlocked last week.

General Juin, reported in line for a top post in General Eisenhower's Supreme Atlantic Command, presented three demands to the Sultan and one of them was a purge of Istiqlal elements from his entourage.

The Sultan named members of the dissolved Cabinet to other posts in the interior of the country but two other demands still remained. They were (1) an open and clear disavowal by the Sultan of the methods of the Istiqlal which the French claim include terrorism and extortion. It was the Sultan's refusal to accede to this demand which led to the breakdown in negotiations last week.

ABSOLUTE POWER

(2) Approval of long-pending reforms to take away the Sultan's power to overrule and change decisions of the Moroccan courts, to provide for election rather than appointment of Municipal Councils and to put into effect laws permitting the formation of trade unions.

French officials said the Sultan was against any cut in his personal power, which at present is theoretically absolute. They said the Istiqlal supported him because it was against equal rights for 600,000 French residents in Morocco in the Municipal Councils.

The exiled Istiqlal leader, Sillal el Fassi, said on Friday in Tangier that the "Moroccan people" planned to ask for United States or United Nations mediation if hope were lost of reaching an agreement with France on the demands for Moroccan independence. He said free elections would show wide support of the party in Morocco. However, the French claim the large majority of Moroccans are against Istiqlal.

Istiqlal hotly denies charges

by Foreign Ministry officials that it works hand in hand with the Communists and appears to have some support even within French Government parties. But now that Istiqlal influence appears to have been ousted from the Sultan's Cabinet, the French are waiting to see if the Sultan is willing to end the crisis in Franco-Moroccan relations by meeting the other French demands.—United Press.

Limit For Presidents Nearer

Washington, Feb. 25.

The proposed two-term constitutional limit on presidents has now entered the home stretch drive with improved chances that it may be written into law in the next few days. It has now been ratified by the legislators of 34 States. All it needs is the approval of two more to make it effective. They may be forthcoming soon.

Paradoxically, the amendment, sponsored by the Republicans after the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt shattered the two-term tradition, may be put over the top by predominantly Democratic legislatures.

Whether it will deter President Truman, who is legally except from running again in the 1952 elections, remains to be seen. Some politicians believe the latest rash of ratifications is a strong argument among the Democrats, particularly Southerners, for his retirement.

The latest three States to approve, all this week, were the Democratic legislatures of Tennessee, Texas and North Carolina. Two other States—Arizona and South Carolina—could put it over the top in the near future.

The Arizona Senate may vote next week to get an endorsement resolution started through that legislature. South Carolina's House has voted its approval but the resolution ran up against a filibuster in the Senate. It might be broken by Governor James F. Byrnes, a one-time Administration stalwart who is now the symbol of the Southland's anti-Truman sentiment.—United Press.



A boy sailor from the destroyer HMS Gravelines gets a big smile from Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh as he snaps them in Malta. The Princess is now back in England, and the Duke will also be leaving Malta shortly.—Central Press.

Taft Denunciation On Troops Issue

Washington, Feb. 25.

Taking direct issue with Mr Thomas Dewey, Governor of New York, Senator Robert Taft (Republican, Ohio) said today that it would be very dangerous to send more American troops to Europe because the planned Atlantic Pact Army would be powerless to stop the Russians.

Senator Taft spoke out in an interview on the eve of his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committee on the issue of troops to Europe, which has sharply divided Republican leaders and may affect the Party's 1952 presidential nomination battle.

Mr Dewey told the Committee on Saturday that "our own preservation" required prompt despatch of U.S. forces to Western Europe and it would be inviting Communist attack for Congress to try to delay or limit troop movement.

That is the same position taken by Senate Democratic leaders, who will soon introduce resolutions strongly endorsing the Administration's plan to commit four more U.S. divisions

to General Eisenhower's Unified Western European defence force. The text of the proposed resolution, made public today, puts no specific limit on the number of troops which could be sent to Europe but advises the President to "contribute our fair share of the forces needed" and to make certain that other Pact allies are pulling their weight.

Senator Taft denounced the resolution as a blank cheque and said it would be foolhardy to commit more U.S. ground forces to Western Europe "until we have a definite promise from other nations to provide an adequate army." Serving notice that he will press his fight for a "definite limitation on our contribution," he said Congress should not be taken in by the Administration's four-division estimate.—United Press.

RAISING VIETNAM ARMY

Saigon, Feb. 25.

Vietnam's newly-appointed Government is asking France for 1,500 million piastres to help raise this year its projected 100,000-strong Vietnam national army, usually reliable Vietnam sources said today.

This sum is besides the 160,000 million francs which France is spending annually on French Union forces fighting the Vietnam rebel Government.

The total defence expenditure planned by the new Vietnam Government is 2,500 million piastres, which is about equal to Vietnam's total estimated annual revenue.

But Vietnam plans to spend 1,000 million piastres of its own and is asking France for the rest. The money will be spent largely on training and maintaining the Vietnam Army, Vietnamese sources said. Most of its fighting equipment will come from the United States military defence aid programme.

An army of four divisions is expected to be ready about the end of 1951.—Reuter.

Smallpox In Japan

Tokyo, Feb. 25.

The Japanese Welfare Ministry on Saturday placed orders with private manufacturers for the supply of smallpox vaccine sufficient to inoculate 16 million persons.

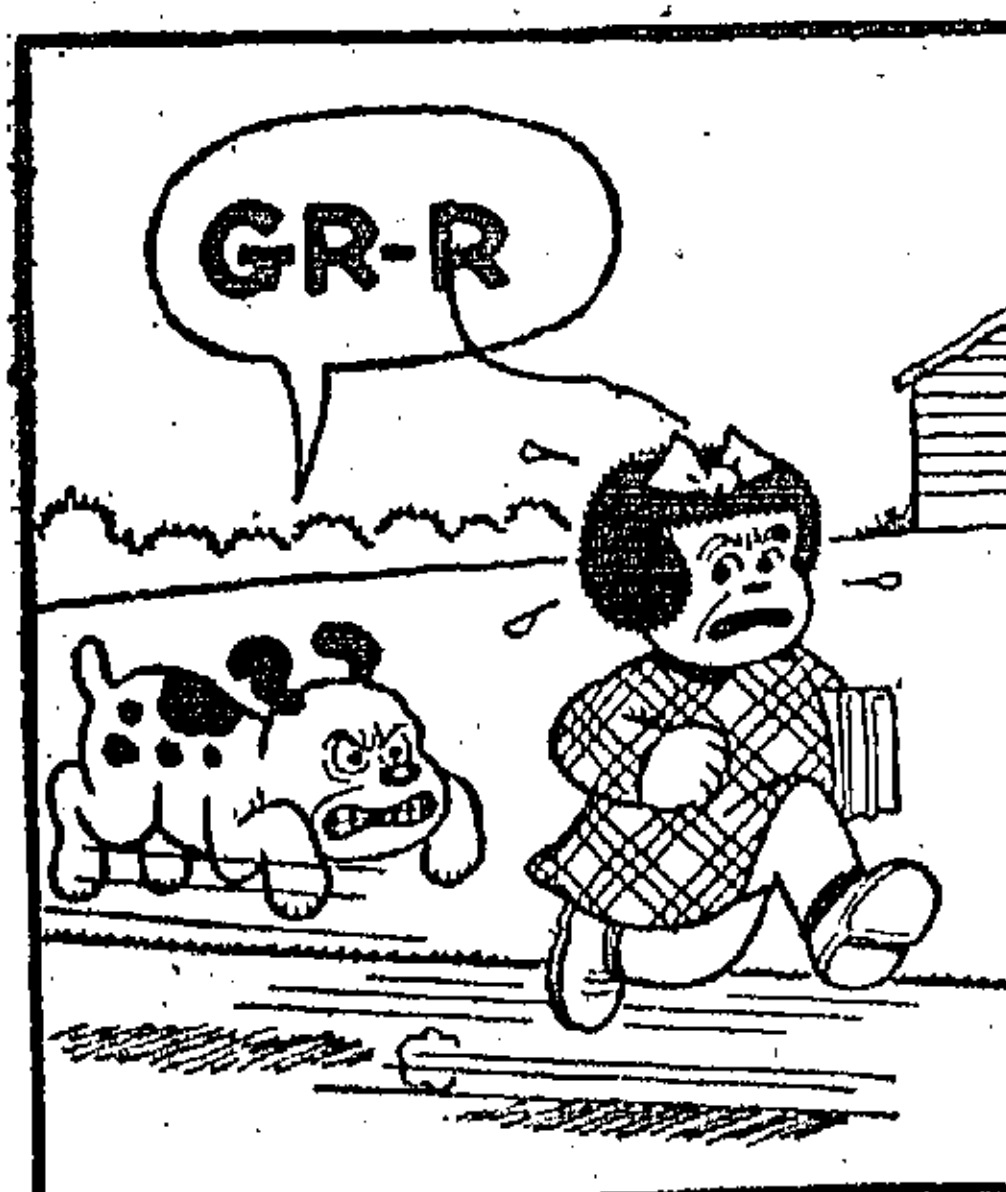
The Government took the step when several cases of smallpox were reported from Kobe and Nagoya.

Preventive measures imposed by the Allied occupation authorities here since Japan's surrender have just about eliminated smallpox as an epidemic threat.

In 1946, the year following the surrender, 17,954 cases were reported while last year only five persons contracted the disease.—Reuter.

NANCY

Classy Excuse



When there's bif I needn't use my fist!

SOLE AGENTS: NAN KANG CO., HONG KONG

By Ernie Bushmiller

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE IS READY TO REFORM THE TRANSFER SYSTEM

Says IVAN SHARPE

The greatest reform in the last 50 years of the Football League is on the way.

The fantastic increase in transfer fees has become a canker affecting the whole fabric of Big Football. It is the red-light of the game.

If, as expected, the clubs at their London meeting on March 12 make the switch from red to green and say: "Go," the League Management Committee will complete their examination of the problems and propose a plan dealing sensibly with the whole situation.

This I can state on the highest authority.

OUT OF HAND

The view taken is that, in the sporting world at large, the transfer system is unduly damned, but is getting out of hand and tarnishing the game's reputation.

Who can doubt it? These reports, for instance, of under-the-counter payments to players... When clubs are falling over themselves to pay £20,000 or more for a player, how can anyone in his senses expect the player to be content to get nothing out of it? It's more than flesh and blood can stand.

Out of hand? There has been no check on the transfer system for 43 years—since 1908.

Then a limit fee of £350 for a player was fixed in January, and withdrawn in April, because some clubs defeated the

restriction by paying £700 for a star and a make-weight. Far better to have retained the limit and plugged the loophole.

The transfer record then was £5,000, paid by a modest Scottish League club for Sydney Puddefoot to West Ham United, who told me they only quoted "this high price" to frighten little Falkirk away.

For thirty years some clubs have been attacking this cancerous growth, but nothing has happened.

In 1922, 1923 and 1925 Arsenal asked for a £1,650 limit, failed to get it, and so decided to play the money-spending merchants at their own game. Who could blame them!

Some clubs have used the system, if used is the correct word, by purchasing players during February and March to save them from relegation and pass the buck to some less-wealthy rival. Can this be defended?

In 1925, a player (Albert Pape) travelled to Manchester as a member of the Clapton Orient team, arrived at one o'clock, was transferred at half-past, and an hour later was playing for instead of against the United at Old Trafford. Can this be defended? The like could happen again next Saturday.

Of that sensation friend Pape, always a likeable centre-forward, now says:

"It was a complete surprise to my colleagues and a real ordeal for me to play against them, as Townrow, Bliss (who both played for England) and the rest of them were such good friends."

"But I was not doing them a bad turn as the club told me they did not know where the money was coming from for the following week's wages and the transfer-fee saved the situation."

The position screamed for alteration, but nothing happened.

In 1944, Mr David Wiseman, of Birmingham City, advocating limitation of transfer-fees, said: "The only people who receive anything from football except a headache are the pools, the banks and the transport companies."

In 1945, the Spurs and the Wolves renewed the attack with five resolutions. All failed. But Birmingham City, when asking for an examination of the position by the League Management Committee, please note, scored a tie.

LIMITATION

Since 1945, the transfer fee, despite West Bromwich Albion onslaughts, has rocketed to £26,500 (Second Division) and £29,500 (First Division) while the Allen Brown transfer from East Fife revived complaints about football auctions.

Well, the League are ready to act. The new President, Mr Arthur Drewry, called the future "exciting and challenging," and now seems ready to live up to it. The Committee have been studying the question of limitation of the size of transfer-fees on a logical basis.

I suggest that, given the opportunity, they could prevent auctions by taking control of all transfers.

Players could be graded, and limits fixed on these lines.

Season	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
1951-2	£15,000	£10,000	£5,000
1952-3	£10,000	£5,000	£2,500
1953-4	£5,000	£2,500	£1,000

By such alteration the financial fabric of the game would not be too suddenly disturbed. Anyway, there isn't much doubt that the clubs will seize this opportunity to forestall the arrival of the £50,000 transfer-fee and devote more time and money to production of players.

It is time to remove this nauseating money, money, money talk from the newspapers and restore the game's sporting values.

The club-notes in the official programme of Wolverhampton Wanderers said the other day that it is time we read more about football and less about football finance. Now's the chance!

SOUTHAMPTON v. HULL CITY



Neil Franklin, the Hull centre-half, just manages to get the ball away from Southampton outside-left Edwards. Hull City won 3-2.

A Successful Cup Run Can Be No Great Financial Fun

Says ARCHIE QUICK

It is not such great financial fun having a successful Cup run. Millwall's manager, Mr Charles Hewitt, has just revealed what the club got out of their attractive Cuptie with Fulham in a rousing London "Local Derby" which attracted a capacity gate.

Gross receipts were £5,112. Sounds fine does it not? Now for the snags. Entertainments Tax took £500, referee and linesmen £17, Printing, postages, advertisements, police, gatesmen and stewards another £124. From the remainder a third went to the FA Cup Pool, a third to Fulham and a third to Millwall. That figure was £1,490.

Still the whittling goes on. From that £1,490 four per cent had to go to the Football League and for the loss of a Saturday League match £1,000 had to be paid to Reading. This is based on Millwall's average gates. Thus Millwall were left with £430 for themselves out of that original magnificent £5,112. There are even more surprising instances than this, and Millwall intend to propose a revision of the compensation clauses.

ONE MORE WORRY

Another thing that is worrying the clubs is the cancellation of dining cars on railways. Arsenal on Saturday instead of catching a mid-morning train to Birmingham and having their early lunch aboard had to go early and then hang around for two hours or so before the game at West Bromwich. Coming back, the players after a hard and cold game had to be content with sandwiches.

Manager Tom Whittaker was also worried over the fact that the team had played three successive matches without scoring a goal. It looks as though changes will have to take place to stop the slide. It is a long while now since Arsenal paid out a big transfer fee, but one is looming now.

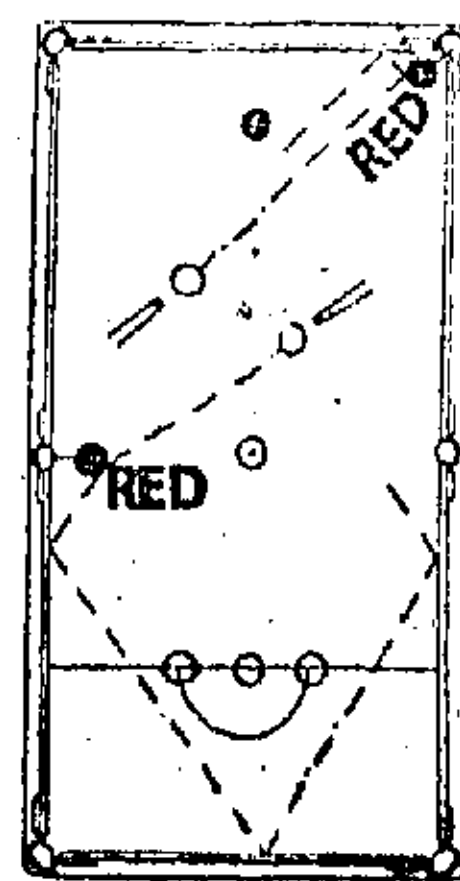
One bright spot is that they won the Combination Championship with a 5-0 win at Chelsea and three of their goals were scored by young centre-forward Holton, who not so very long ago was a full back in the Army eleven.

Talking of the Combination, their annual match in Paris on March 1 has taken on a farcical aspect by the selection of an eleven not one of whom has played in the Combination this season. Moreover, two of them are Logie and Barnes, Scottish and Welsh respectively. The others — Ditchburn, Ramsey, Nicholson, Daniel, Dickenson, Stevens, Vaughan, Brennan and Froggart—are all Internationals, except Vaughan and Stevens, and not a reserve among them! It will, however, serve as an International Trial, and Paris has replied by picking eight full Internationals in their team!

Arthur Peall says:

POT THOSE EASY REDS WITH GREAT CARE

EASY reds properly potted are the trade mark of careful snooker players who know what they are about.



Play that simple red in centre pocket slowly and you may leave a baulk-line colour. My freer style with top spin on white ensures the more productive blue. I show a red entering the top right pocket. White carries a reason a big amount of backspin. Result is an easy black to follow. Both reds are pottable with unimagined gentle plain-ball strokes. Forget those "taps" and turn on progressive ideas.

Even Cricket Is Becoming A Rich Man's Game

Says VERNON MORGAN

London, Feb. 25.

Britain is not the only country where the cost of sporting equipment is proving a severe handicap to sport and the sporting prestige of the nation.

A leading sports store owner in Australia has come out with what seemed to many a quite ridiculous statement that the rising cost of equipment was killing cricket in Australia.

"Cricket is a dying game in Australia," this businessman stated, adding that cheaper games, bowls in particular, were taking its place.

Judging by the four straight wins of Australia in the Test matches, cricket in England must be dead and buried if this storekeeper's views are right.

CLOSING DOWN

To prove his point, this man said that hundreds of cricket clubs throughout Australia have not re-formed this season and were unlikely to do so because, he said, that the cost of equipment which has increased something like 50 per cent in the last 10 years.

If this is the case with Australia, what chance has Britain got not only in cricket but other sports, for in this country there is a heavy purchase tax on all sporting goods.

Moreover Australia generally with the ever-increasing price of wool is a pretty prosperous country these days. The same cannot be said for Great Britain.

The prices of sporting equipment go up day by day. Golf with a new increase in the price of balls is almost getting the "rich man's" sport, which it

was claimed to be before the war.

It is reckoned that to start the game of golf today at least £50 is required and probably nearer £100. The youth—and that is where the sporting strength of a country lies—cannot afford this.

TENNIS IS EXPENSIVE

Lawn tennis is also going to be dearer this season with another increase of 10 shillings or more in the cost of rackets. Even football and boxing may cost more with the spiralling price of leather.

Sportsmen cannot prevent the rise in the cost of commodities, but they do feel the least the Government can do is to help them by reducing the heavy purchase tax. After all, sport should not be regarded as a luxury.

It will be that Britain's proficiency today in the cheaper sports like track and field athletics could be at least partly attributed to the fact that there is little expense in taking part in them.

Certainly it can be said that the cost of the game has something to do with England's poor general level of efficiency in games like golf and lawn tennis. —Reuter.

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

RAILWAY WAGE INCREASE EXPECTED TO SET A PRECEDENT FOR INDUSTRY

London, Feb. 24. Railway workers on the British nationalised railway system have gained a wage award that will cost the railway executive £12,000,000 and will benefit wage packets of 465,000 men.

The wider significance of this wage increase (which puts railway wages up by an average of 7½ percent) is that it will certainly form the basis for a series of wage increases throughout British industry in the next few years.

There is some justice in the railwaymen getting the first cut of the cake. They have waited long; their conditions of work are unattractive; and their lowest earning wage group was at a pitiful standard under £5 per week.

If the railway workers' gains are taken as precedent, then the national wages bill of industry is bound to rise by something more than 1s. in the £.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Gaitskell, in his recent speech on the economics of rearmament indicated that the country could not expect a rise in its standard of living to which it would otherwise be entitled as the result of steadily increasing production.

Wage increases that now seem to be inevitable are a kind of token of the country's desire for higher living standards. But they are bound to be only a token as what unions gain with one hand will certainly be snatched back either in higher prices or by the Chancellor imposing increased taxation.

The incentive that drives the unions to tough wage bargaining today is the desire to cash in as many tokens as fast as possible before the country is overtaken by the inevitable taxation and higher prices. For that reason mainly, 1951 is likely to be a year full of news about strikes, threatened or actual.

SUBSIDY SUGGESTION

As far as British Railways are concerned, increased wages will probably be offset by increased prices.

There is, however, a strong body of opinion, mainly Socialist but not exclusively, that argues against increased freight and passenger rates and suggests that railway losses should be carried by the taxpayer, providing a subsidy as vital service to industry.

With justice the railway executive points out that scarcely a major railway network in the world runs at a profit. However, British Railway accounts would show profits if companies were in private hands. The effect of nationalisation was to convert railway ordinary shares as well as debentures into fixed interest bearing stock. British Railways have to cover all these interest payments before it can claim a "profit" on its books.

The case for a subsidy is that British exports would be kept down in price by this reduction of the "transport component" in all costs. This argument seems weak at the moment as there is probably a margin by which British exports could rise without sharply diminishing their gross earnings in the world. The choice between a subsidy for the railways or a rise in freight rates seems to be between the poor British taxpayer footing the whole bill or the poor British railway user sharing the bill with the whole world that uses British goods.

STOCK EXCHANGE

Activity in the Stock Exchange did not decline this week as much as had been expected. Bargains at 61,000 were only 3,000 fewer than last week. Reinvestment of steel funds still seems to have some way to go before it can be ignored as a factor in the Market.

The rise in English Electric shares typifies the quick reaction of investors when two current factors come to bear simultaneously. This week's English Electric's famous Canberra jet bomber broke the trans-Atlantic speed record and this undoubtedly places the company among those which will benefit handsomely from the rearmament programme. At the same time the company's dividend announcement showed a 5 per cent increase and this further evidence of a break-away from the dividend freeze policy was enough to start a keen demand for English Electric shares and they went ahead on Friday by 9s. 6d.

Elsewhere in the Market gilded began to recover and home industrials tended to slip away. Commodities were still among the strongest sections of the Market especially rubbers which are enjoying another boom despite profit-taking activities.

The announcement that railwaymen have been awarded a pay increase which will have to be offset by a rise in railway freight rates was received too late to have any effect on the Market. But on the whole firms which lose on the railway round-about should gain on the price swings.—London Express Service.

Grain Price In Chicago

Chicago, Feb. 24. Prices of grain futures closed here today as follows:—

Wheat—price per bushel.	
Spot	2.49
March	2.49½-1½
May	2.51½-2.51
July	2.44½-¾
September	2.45½-¾
December	2.48½
Corn	
Spot	1.88¾
March	1.83½
May	1.86½
July	1.86½-½
September	1.84¾
December	1.77
Rye	
May	1.93½-¾
July	1.93
September	1.92½
Oats	
March	1.01½
May	1.01¾
July	94½-1½
September	92½-¾
December	94½
New York Flour—per 200 lb. Sack.	
\$13.30.—United Press.	

Rubber Futures In Singapore

Singapore, Feb. 24. Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—

Number 1 rubber, per lb.	228½-299
February	222½-223
Number 2 rubber, per lb.	220½-221½
February	207-208
Number 3 rubber, per lb.	197-198
February	232½-233½
Spot rubber, unbled	164-166
Black crepe	233-238
No. 1 pale crepe	—

—United Press.

HOLLYWOOD COULD STILL GIVE HONGKONG A FILM THAT WILL RUN THREE MONTHS HERE

Samuel Goldwyn's "Our Very Own," a film with beach scenes but no Esther Williams, ran all of eight days simultaneously at two theatres in Hongkong. There were no six-shooters, stampeding cattle, water ballets, apemen swinging through the trees or strong men pulling down temples thrown in.

A Walt Disney short on how beavers live and thrive was paired with the film and this did not pass unnoticed. In fact, some liked it as much as the main attraction.

However, Goldwyn's tear-jerker about the unhappy girl who discovered that she was only an adopted daughter found considerable favour even with Chinese audiences, about the first non-action, non-Western, non-musical film that has achieved this since "Leave Her To Heaven," starring Gene Tierney as the wife who couldn't share her husband's affection with his crippled younger brother, paddled the cripple out to the middle of a lake and left him there to drown.

By whatever standards our filmgoers go by, "Our Very Own" was a great success here. Paul Dehn's review on this page, which arrived here just

a few days after "Our Very Own" had completed its run—the film just starting to run for London audiences about the same time it started its run here—lays emphasis on Penny, who was quite a "Bad Penny" at that. Joan Evans did a masterly job by Penny and it was Penny who filled two theatres.

Look back on the non-Westerns and non-musicals that have packed in Hongkong's theatres in the past and the suggestion arises that a good study of a wicked woman is a crowd puller for our cinemas. Ann Blyth as the ungrateful daughter in "Mildred Pierce", Gene Tierney in "Leave Her To Heaven" and Joan Evans as Penny are three examples that spring readily to mind. Even Delilah's lack of principles, one can venture, helped as much to attract audiences here as did Samson's temple-destroying stunt.

COME ON, HOLLYWOOD!

Stretching the imagination to its furthest extreme, here is our suggestion for a film that will fill two or three Hongkong theatres for several months:

Starring Johnny Weissmuller as Tarzan and Esther Williams

as Jane in wildest Africa. A deputation from a wild American city in the wildest part of the West where sheep-rustlers fight with Indians and cattle-rustlers and bad men reign supreme comes to Africa to ask Tarzan if he will accept the job of sheriff, and clean up Mad Gulch.

Tarzan accepts on condition that Bob Hope can come as his Gentleman's Gentleman and Jane can act in a water ballet. He also asks for Xavier Cugat and his Band.

The whole party proceeds to Mad Gulch and there is considerable shooting and a stampede of cattle running into flocks of sheep, rustlers and Red Indians.

Somewhere after the story had moved to Mad Gulch, the wife of one Cugat's musicians, preferably to be played by Gene Tierney or Ann Sheridan, drowns him with his trombone in the swimming pool in Technicolour while the water ballet is engaged in a tap dance.

It will be important to establish to the satisfaction of the audience that the trombonist loved his wife and pandered to her every whim and that her only reason for wishing him deprived of life was because she hated all he stood for in her estimation—a deputy sheriff helping to clean up Mad Gulch with apemen, music, water ballets and six-shooters.

Hollywood movie moguls should waste no time getting that one started.—MHT.

Paul Dehn's Review Of "Our Very Own" Irrational Hatred And Unjudicial Tears

Two things I loathe beyond measure—being made either to hate, against the dictates of my reason, or to cry, despite the prompting of my better judgment.

"Our Very Own" a tragicomic crossbreed from the Sam Goldwyn stables by Flaming Youth out of Adoption Papers, afflicts me successively with waves of irrational hatred and floods of unjudicial tears.

Against the dictates of my reason, its "comic" first half cancels the contrary experience of a year's sojourn in America and bids me hate all (but all) Americans under the age of 17.

A 'BAD PENNY'

I hate the smart, knowing, mannerless, cute, cocksure, self-consciously saucy incivility of the Macaulay family's infant daughter Penny—a bad, untypical American Penny, who, for the sake of friendly commerce between our two countries, should never be allowed to turn up in England again.

I hate the second, teen-age daughter, so obsessed with the necessity for boy-friends that she

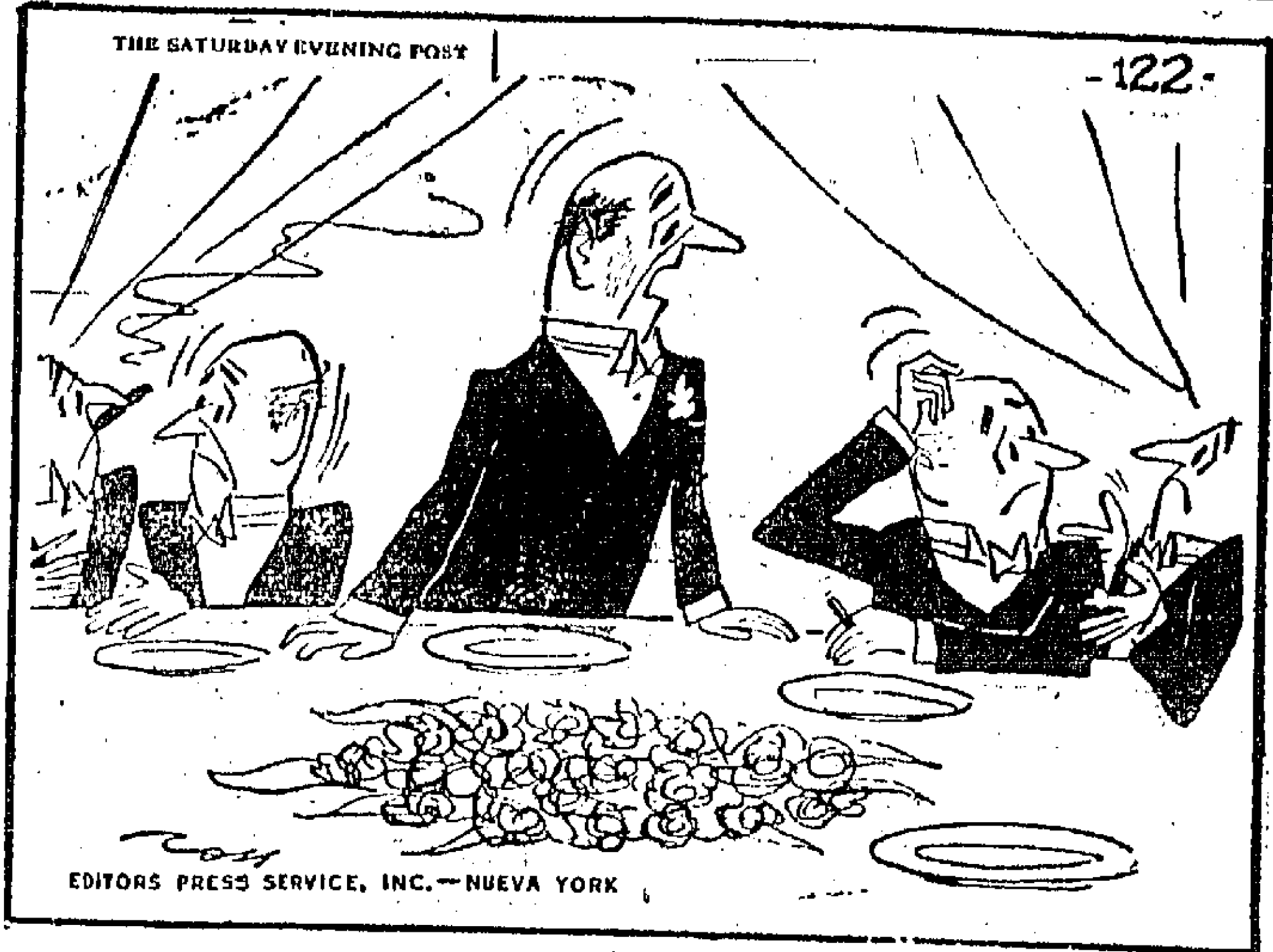
is prepared to steal her elder sister's by every trick known to adult, neurotic woman.

I hate the bright-shirted schoolboy boor who, deprived of the girl he wants, continues repellently rude to her substitute for no other reason than that she pathetically admires him, is fat and cannot rhumba.

I hate jitterbugging carried to such hysterical extremes that it resembles a barrin-barrin, or Bush Fertility Dance, in which the protagonists (while not actually mutilating themselves) do their savage best to dislocate each other's collar-bones.

It is at this point that the picture's mood changes and I begin to cry—hot, scalding tears of pity for the eldest daughter (Ann Blyth), who turns out to have been rescued in babyhood from an unmarried mother (Ann Dvorak) and who must now readjust herself to the knowledge that she is an adopted child.

Given decent cause (e.g. The Men), I am not ashamed to cry in the cinema; but why this should make me cry I have no notion—unless it be that, after an overdose of American chaff, one is emotionally more sensitive to American corn.



"Surely somebody must know why we are gathered here."

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray
Dealer: West.
Love all.

N. 10 7
S. A K 10 4
E. 10 7
W. A 7 6
K Q 7 5

W. Q 6 5
S. Q 9 5
E. 9 8
K 5 4 2
A 8
J 10 8 6 4

S. J 7 3 2
A K 8 2
J 9 3
3 2

This deal, from the 1946 match between England and Wales, was another comedy of errors. The English West passed on his barren hand in Room 1, and the North-South bidding was One Club—One Heart. Two No-Trumps—Three No-Trumps. This was a poor contract, but as the cards lay it could not be defeated. North's rebid should have been One Spade. In Room 2 the lure of the Prepared Club was too much for West. North—South settled down to a policy of wait and see, and East ventured Two Clubs, wide open to a penalty of 500. West could only pass, and North now doubled, South taking out into Two Hearts which everyone passed. East-West muddled the defence and this strange contract was just made.

London Express Service.

U.S. EMBARGO SPECULATION

Action Against Hongkong May Be Of "Secondary Importance"

PARIS ART FAKES

Paris, Feb. 25.
The Paris police today warned art-dealers and others who may have recently bought pictures by Utrillo and Vlaminck that they should be closely examined in case they are fakes.

The police said that they were looking for Jean Pinson-Berthet, a Parisian painter, who was sentenced last July to five years' imprisonment in his absence, for hoaxing Paris art-dealers with skilful imitation Utrillos and Vlamincks.

Eight apparently freshly-painted fake Utrillos and four false Vlamincks have just been discovered by the police. They concluded that Pinson-Berthet, in hiding, was up to it again.

The investigations showed that several pictures signed by Utrillo or Vlaminck — famous contemporary painters of Paris scenes — have recently been sent to buyers or dealers in Holland or Buenos Aires.

It is not known if they were genuine or faked. — Reuter.

Pakistan And India In Trade Pact

Karachi, Feb. 25.
Pakistan and India signed a one-year trade agreement here today. The signatories were the leaders of the Indian and Pakistan delegations to the trade conference, which began here on February 19.

A press note announced: "Trade talks between India and Pakistan concluded today and a satisfactory agreement has been reached on all matters, including the mode of payments."

Under the agreement Pakistan will export raw jute, raw cotton, food grains and other commodities to India in exchange for coal, steel and cotton textiles.

A joint statement said that a number of goods would also be placed on the open general licence in both countries, which means that they may be freely exchanged but that these commodities were not stated.

The announcement added that details of the agreement would be released simultaneously in Karachi and New Delhi tomorrow.

It was the first full trade pact between the two countries since India devalued her currency in September, 1949.

Official sources here had said earlier that an agreement was reached after India had agreed to recognise unconditionally the undervalued Pakistan rupee.

Normal trade between India

All Trade Relations With Iron Curtain Nations Studied

(OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Feb. 24.

Mr A. G. Clarke, Hongkong's Director of Commerce, stopped off in London this week-end on his way back from Washington where the American embargo on trade with Hongkong is still under discussion.

His first task in London was to report to officials of the Colonial Office and Foreign Office on the progress—or as some observers believe, lack of progress—made at talks with the American Departments of State and Commerce.

It is stressed in official quarters here that as Mr Clarke attended the talks only in the capacity of an expert adviser, his return does not necessarily mean that his mission has failed. But that is the way some people are interpreting his departure from Washington. Why, they ask, should negotiators on the British side dismiss their expert adviser if talks are progressing satisfactorily?

The fact seems to be that the embargo on American trade with Hongkong is of secondary importance. The underlying purpose of the Washington talks would seem to be, if this analysis is correct, to iron out all the differences between Britain and America over trade relations with the Iron Curtain countries.

U.S. ANNOYED

The Americans are annoyed at our refusal to co-operate in an attempt to impose a "blanket" ban on trade with Russia and China. There is undoubtedly much to be said against Britain's attitude towards shipment of rubber, tin and wool to Iron Curtain countries as these commodities are undeniably of strategic value to a potential enemy. But we point out with equal logic that the trade embargo works both ways. Do we, in short, stand to lose more than the countries we are asked to embargo? The answer is provided by the American National Production Authority's dilemma over hog bristles which they would like to stockpile for defence purposes. China was their main source of supply for bristles but now that trade has stopped.

and Pakistan virtually came to a stop when Pakistan, unlike India, decided not to devalue her rupee in line with sterling devaluation in September, 1949. — Reuter.

"Big Five" Peace Pact Propaganda

Berlin, Feb. 25.

The Italian left-wing Socialist Party leader, Signor Pietro Nenni, today said that the meeting of the World Peace Council could propose a peace pact of the "Big Five"—the United States, Britain, France, Russia and Communist China.

He again branded the United Nations organisation as "a branch of the White House" and advocated an early peace treaty with a reunited and demilitarised Germany.

He was addressing about 3,000 Berliners who saw the delegations of the World Peace Council seated on the stage of East Berlin's biggest music hall.

They greeted the delegates by rhythmic hand-clapping.

A former French Minister, Yves Farge, described the unification of the working classes in Germany as well as in France as "the only way to maintain peace in Europe."

"The present meeting of the World Peace Council has taken measures to thwart the criminal plans of the American imperialists and, if necessary, to enforce peace."

A Soviet delegate claimed that the World Peace Council represented two-thirds of the world population. — Reuter.

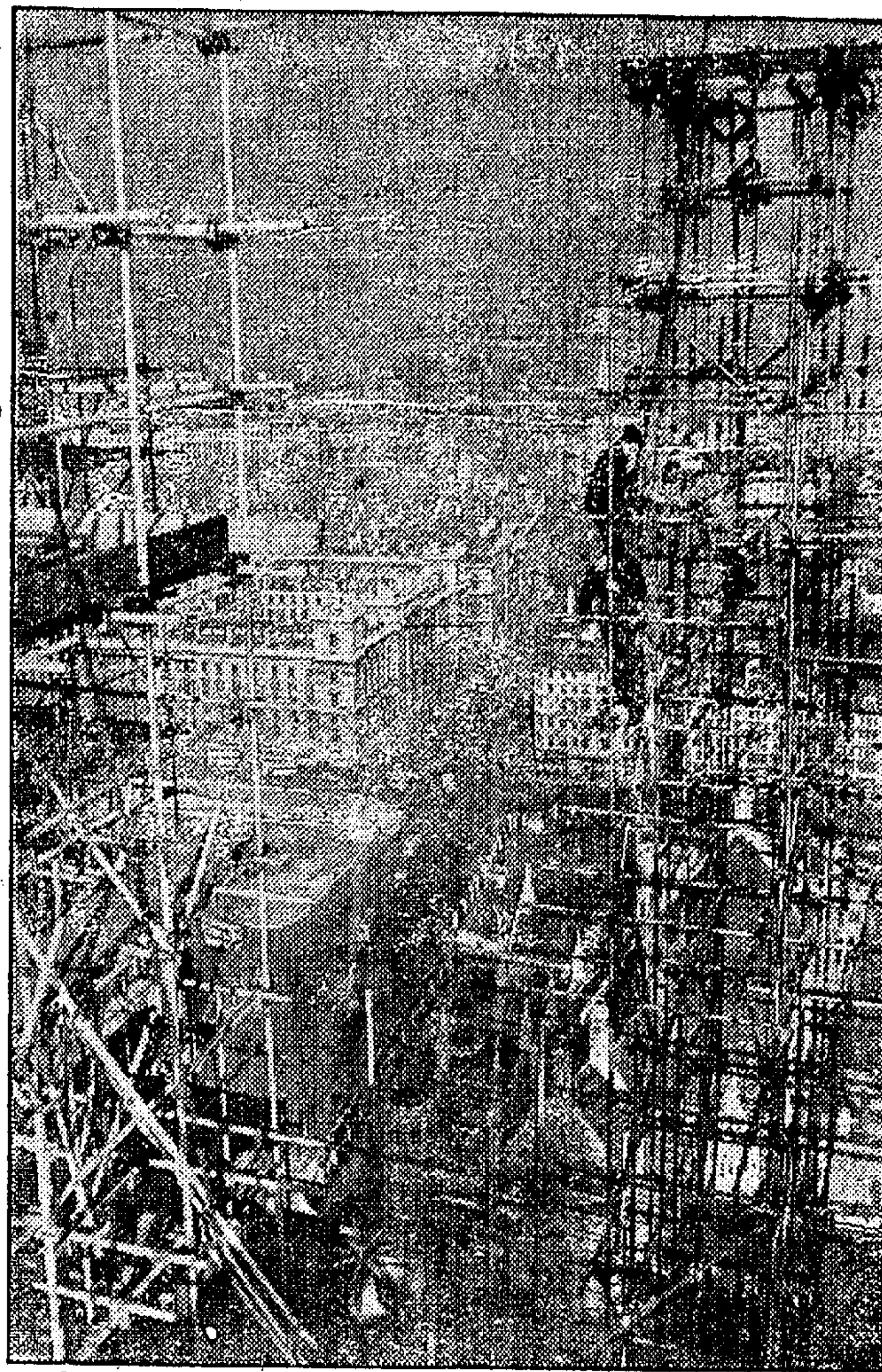
Ban On Reds A Problem

Tokyo, Feb. 25.

Political considerations must be weighed before the Japan Communist Party is outlawed, although a theoretical basis exists for banning the Party, the Attorney General, Mr Takeo Ohashi, said yesterday.

Mr Ohashi told the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives that the activity of the Communist Party had exceeded legal bounds permissible to political organisations.

The Attorney-General said that the Government would permit patriotic movements or Asian peace movements but would control any rightist movements which tended to revive ultra-nationalism or to resist Allied occupation policies. — Reuter.



Working high above the Thames and buildings at Westminster with the skill and nonchalance that comes from experience in working at great heights, these scaffolders are busy erecting tubular scaffolding at the top of Victoria Tower, in the Houses of Parliament. The defective stonework on the buildings is being restored—a job that will take several years. — Central Press.

Discontent Behind The Curtain

Chicago, Feb. 25.

The presidential assistant, Mr W. Averall Harriman, said tonight that increasing discontent and unrest behind the Iron Curtain would enable the free world to win its struggle with the Kremlin. However, the freedom-giving nations would have to remain unified and strong for a long time to do the job.

Mr Harriman placed the blame for international tension squarely on the aggressive designs of the Kremlin. The Kremlin was determined to force its will on the peoples of the world.

The Russian leaders agreed at Yalta to respect the sovereignty of liberated nations and if this commitment had been honoured Eastern Europe would be free today. "Failure to carry out the Yalta agreements definitely indicated a decision to pursue a plan of external aggression," he continued.

"The extent of their schemes has been revealed by their subsequent actions. They have maintained vast military forces. They have oppressed and impoverished peoples behind the Iron Curtain."

As a result the Soviet actions were causing increasing discontent and unrest, particularly among the satellites but also within Russia. — United Press.

French Success In Swamps

Saigon, Feb. 25.

French Union forces, with strong air support, sweeping through rice-fields and swamps 60 miles southeast of the Tonkin capital of Hanoi, have destroyed more Vietminh fortified resistance centres within the French-held Tonkin Delta Bridgehead, a French Army communique said tonight.

The French Army said that the Vietminh forces left 118 dead on the ground in the Namdinh region, where the big operation took place. Seventy-one prisoners were taken. — Reuter.

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CONCERT

IN AID OF

THE MISSION TO LEPERS HONG KONG AUXILIARY

On Saturday, 3rd March, 1951, at 8:30 p.m. a Concert will be given at the Diocesan Boys' School, Homuntin, Kowloon. Among those participating in the Concert are the following: Soloists — Caroline Braga (Piano) and Gaston D'Aquino (Tenor), Conductor — L. T. Ride, Accompanist — E. O'Neil Shaw.

This Concert has been arranged by The Hong Kong Singers in aid of The Mission to Lepers Hong Kong Auxiliary. Proceeds of the Concert will be used to promote the work of The Mission to Lepers Hong Kong Auxiliary to bring medical aid, spiritual and occupational instruction, and support in many other ways to those suffering from Leprosy in Hong Kong.

Bookings can be made at Moutries, and tickets HK\$3, HK\$5, and HK\$10.

The Mission to Lepers Hong Kong Auxiliary is looking forward to meeting many friends and sympathisers of the Auxiliary as well as music lovers, at this Benefit Concert.

STOP PRESS

Australia Out

Australia all out 217. Bedser took 5 for 46, Brown 5 for 49. England 4 for no wicket. Hutton 3, Washbrook 1.